

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A switch unit included in one optical node is configured by a plurality of switch circuits having 5 ports the number of which is fewer than that of lines to be accommodated by the switch unit. Since the plurality of switch circuits are mutually independent as sub-switches of the switch unit, the entire switch unit does not become a complete group switch. 10 Accordingly, the line that is accommodated by each of the sub-switches is determined by a service provided to a user accommodated by the line. The switch unit is configured by independent sub-switches as described above, whereby an optical node having a simple 15 configuration can be implemented with small and inexpensive switches. Furthermore, a service provided by the optical node can be easily added by replacing a sub-switch.

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